

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 EB-07 COME-00

SAM-01 SAB-01 /098 W

----- 113885

R 201046Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9449

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IS

SUBJ: RABIN ON SEBASTIA COMPROMISE

REF: TEL AVIV 7845 (NOTAL)

1. IN TWO SEPARATE APPEARANCES DEC 17 AND 18 PM RABIN SHARPLY CRITICIZED GUSH EMUNIM ACTIVISTS WHO RECENTLY EXTRACTED COMPROMISE FROM GOVERNMENT ALLOWING THEM TO REMAIN IN ARMY CAMP ON WEST BANK AFTER ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT AT SEBASTIA.

2. SPEAKING TO GROUP OF YOUNG LABOR PARTY MEMBERS DEC 17, RABIN REPORTEDLY SAID GUSH EMUNIM WAS NOT A SETTLEMENT ORGANIZATION BUT A POLITICAL MOVEMENT "INTENT ON IMPOSING ITS VIEWS IN VIOLATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BELIEFS AND OF ALL DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES".

PM ADDED THAT AT KIRYAT ARBA (NEAR HEBRON) APARTMENTS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPTY AND JOBS UNFILLED AND SUGGESTED THAT THOSE TRULY INTERESTED

IN SETTLEMENT MIGHT TAKE THEIR ENERGY THERE.

3. ASKED TO EXPLAIN WILLINGNESS OF GOVERNMENT TO COMPROMISE WITH GUSH ENUNIM, RABIN REPLIED THAT "A CONFRONTATION WITH GUSH EMUNIM IS UNAVOIDABLE AND THOSE WHO BELIEVE THIS MUST USE THEIR JUDGMENT AS TO HOW AND WHEN". HE SAID THE LABOR PARTY MUST PREPARE ITSELF FOR AN IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE AND THAT "BAYONETS ALONE WILL

NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM".

4. AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY ISRAELI-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (WITH AMB TOON IN ATTENDANCE) RABIN IN REPLY TO A QUESTION CRITICIZED GUSH EMUNIM FOR ATTEMPTING TO SETTLE IN INTERIOR OF SAMARIA

RATHER THAN IN THOSE AREAS ACCORDED PRIORITY BY GOVERNMENT: GOLAN HEIGHTS, JORDAN VALLEY, AND RAFAH JUNCTION AREA.

5. PUBLIC OPINION POLL CONDUCTED BY INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY, RESULTS OF WHICH WERE SUMMARIZED IN DECEMBER 18 GOI PRESS BULLETIN, HAS SHOWN THAT 61 PERCENT OF ISRAELIS SUPPORTED SEBASTIA COMPROMISE COMPARED WITH 29 PERCENT OPPOSED TO IT. MOREOVER, 63 PERCENT DECLARED THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS IN SAMARIA AT THIS TIME, COMPARED WITH ONLY 30 PERCENT OPPOSED. ONLY 30 PERCENT, HOWEVER, SUPPORTED INITIATIVES TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, WHEREAS 65 PERCENT WERE AGAINST SUCH ACTIVITIES.

6. COMMENT: RABIN'S REMARKS REPORTED ABOVE SEEM DESIGNED TO MEET RATHER HARSH TREATMENT HE RECEIVED AT HANDS OF ANTI-SETTLEMENT FORCES WITHIN LABOR ALIGNMENT OVER WILLINGNESS OF GOVERNMENT TO COMPROMISE WITH SETTLERS (REFTTEL). FACT THAT RABIN HAS CORRECTLY SENSED CURRENT MOOD OF PUBLIC ON THIS ISSUE, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE BORNE OUT BY RESULTS OF POLL. THERE IS WIDESPREAD RECOGNITION HERE THAT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO FACE ANOTHER CHALLENGE, AND SOON

FROM THE SAME SETTLERS WHO WILL BE PRESSING FOR A DECISION TO AUTHORIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT AT SEBASTIA. TOON

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